

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/964,590

Examiner

Shirley Lu

Applicant(s)

MOHAMED, ABDULAH

Art Unit

2612

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to appeal brief dated 9/24/07 and examiner's amendment.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 16 and 18-29.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 20071220.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

Claims 1-15, 17 are cancelled. Claims 16, 18-29 are amended as follows and allowed.

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Otto Zsigmond on 12/20/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

Amend the claims as follows:

Claim 16. (currently amended) A device for displaying multiple pre-programmed messages, comprising:

a first housing adapted to be mounted in a first location, a first electronic display mounted in the first housing, a first microprocessor associated with the first housing and being operably connected to the first electronic display for communicating display instructions to the first electronic display to generate a viewable message based on a selected message signal;

a second housing adapted to be mounted in a second location, a second electronic display mounted in said second housing, a second microprocessor associated with the second housing and having a plurality of programmed message signals, means for conducting electric signals between the first microprocessor and the second microprocessor such that the second microprocessor is operably connected to the first microprocessor for communicating the selected message signal to the first microprocessor, the second microprocessor further being operably connected to the second electronic display for communicating display instructions to the second electronic display to generate a viewable message based on the selected message signal;

message selection means associated with the second housing and being operably connected to the second microprocessor for enabling a user to select from the plurality of programmed message signals, the second microprocessor communicating the selected message signal to the second electronic display to generate the viewable message and further communicating the selected message signal to the first microprocessor; and

a source of electricity associated with one of said first or second housings for supplying electric power to the device;

wherein the message selection means comprises a plurality of buttons, each button being associated with a respective programmed message signal corresponding to a message to be displayed.

Claim 17. (cancelled)

Claim 19. (Currently amended) The device of claim 16 wherein said first and second housings are adapted to be secured to opposite sides of a door and the means for conducting electric signals between the first ~~central processing unit~~ microprocessor and the ~~central~~ second microprocessor ~~processing~~ unit extends through the door.

Claim 26. (Currently amended) A device for displaying multiple pre-programmed messages, comprising:

a first housing adapted to be mounted in a first location;
a first electronic display screen mounted in said first housing;
a second housing adapted to be mounted in a second location;
a second electronic display screen mounted in said second housing;
a first microprocessor for providing display information to said display screen in said first housing;
a second microprocessor for providing display information to said display screen in said second housing;
a power source in one of said first or second housings for supplying electric power to said display screens and said first and second microprocessors;
means for selecting a message to be displayed on said first and second displays; and
means for conducting electric signals between said first and second microprocessors such that said first and second microprocessors are operably connected to each other for communicating said message between said first and second microprocessors;

wherein the message selection means comprises a plurality of buttons, each button being associated with a respective programmed message signal corresponding to a message to be displayed.

Claim 28. (Currently amended) The device of claim 26 wherein said first and second housings are adapted to be secured to opposite sides of a door and the means for conducting electric signals between the first ~~central processing unit~~ microprocessor and the ~~central~~ second microprocessor ~~processing~~ unit extends through the door.

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Reconsideration of the claims as amended against the prior art in light of the arguments presented in the Appeal Brief has lead to the conclusion that the prior art does not sufficiently teach/suggest the claimed invention having the specific combination of features with the displays, the housings, the microprocessors and interoperability in the manner claimed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shirley Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8546. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SL


BENJAMIN C. LEE
PRIMARY EXAMINER